AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application:

LISTING OF CLAIMS:

1. (Currently Amended) A discharge bulb, comprising:

an arc tube fixedly positioned and forwardly elongating from an insulating base positioned behind said arc tube~~;~~, the arc tube comprising: a ceramic, straight, and cylindrical light emitting tube ~~positioned in said arc tube, said light emitting tube~~ having sealed end portions to form an enclosed space therein; and electrodes opposingly disposed in said light emitting tube ~~where~~, wherein said enclosed space is filled with a light emitting substance and a starting rare gas; and ~~wherein~~

a strip-shaped first light blocking portion ~~is~~ disposed ~~on~~ at a first portion of said ~~arc~~ light emitting tube that corresponds to at least a rear one of the sealed end portions of said light emitting tube,

wherein said first light blocking portion ~~extending~~ extends, in a circumferential direction, over at least a ~~predetermined~~ range from an upper side ~~in a circumferential direction~~ to both lateral sides of said light emitting tube.

2. (Currently Amended) The discharge bulb according to claim 1, further comprising~~:~~ a second light blocking portion ~~positioned on~~ disposed at a second portion of said light emitting tube that corresponds to a front one of the sealed end portions of said light emitting tube,

wherein ~~and~~ said second light blocking portion extends, in the circumferential direction, over at least a ~~predetermined~~ range, from a lower side ~~in the circumferential direction~~ to both of said lateral sides of said light emitting tube.

3. (Currently Amended) The discharge bulb of claim 2, wherein said second light blocking portion ~~is formed in~~ has a ~~predetermined~~ width, in an axial direction of the light emitting tube, ~~from the second position~~ at least corresponding to a width, in the axial direction, of said front sealed end portion of said light emitting tube~~, up to a maximum width substantially at a tip end of corresponding one of said electrodes~~.

4. (Currently Amended) The discharge bulb of claim 1, wherein said first light blocking portion ~~is formed in~~ has a ~~predetermined~~ width, in an axial direction of the light emitting tube, ~~from the first position~~ at least corresponding to a width, in the axial direction, of said rear sealed end portion of said light emitting tube~~, up to a maximum width substantially at a tip end of corresponding one of said electrodes~~.

5. (Currently Amended) The discharge bulb of claim 1, wherein said first light blocking portion ~~on a rear end side of at least one of said arc tube and said glass shroud~~ extends in the circumferential direction on both the lateral sides of said light emitting tube to positions that horizontally coincide in level with ~~an~~ a lowermost position of said rear end sealed portion of said light emitting tube.

6. (Currently Amended) The discharge bulb of claim ~~1~~ 2, wherein said second light blocking portion ~~on a front end side of at least one of said arc tube and said glass shroud~~ extends in the circumferential direction on both the lateral sides of said light emitting tube to positions that horizontally coincide in level with ~~a uppermost~~ an uppermost position of said front end sealed portion of said light emitting tube.

7. (Currently Amended) The discharge bulb of claim 1, wherein said first light blocking portion is disposed in the circumferential direction over a whole circumference of ~~at least one of~~ said light emitting tube~~arc tube and said glass shroud~~.

8. (Currently Amended) A discharge bulb, comprising:

an arc tube ~~is~~ fixedly positioned ~~so as to elongate~~ and forwardly elongating from an insulating base positioned behind said arc tube~~;~~, the arc tube comprising: a ceramic, straight, and cylindrical light emitting tube ~~positioned in said arc tube and~~ having sealed end portions to form

an enclosed space therein; and electrodes opposingly disposed in said light emitting tube, wherein said enclosed space is filled with a light emitting substance and a starting rare gas; ~~and~~

an ultraviolet-ray blocking glass shroud surrounding said light emitting tube ~~and positioned around said arc tube,~~; and

~~wherein, in at least one of said arc tube and said glass shroud,~~

a strip-shaped first light blocking portion disposed at a first portion of said light emitting tube that corresponds ~~is positioned corresponding~~ to at least a rear one of the ~~end~~-sealed ~~portion~~ end portions ~~among front and rear end sealed portions~~ of said light emitting tube,

wherein said first light blocking portion ~~extending~~ extends, in a circumferential direction, over at least a range from an upper side ~~in a circumferential direction~~ to both lateral sides of said light emitting tube.

9. (Currently Amended) The discharge bulb according to claim ~~3~~ 8, further comprising: a second light blocking portion ~~positioned corresponding to said~~ disposed at a second portion of said light emitting tube that corresponds to a front one of said ~~end~~-sealed end portions ~~portion~~ of said light emitting tube, ~~in at least one of said arc tube and said glass shroud,~~

wherein said second light blocking portion extends, in the circumferential direction, over at least a ~~predetermined~~ range from a lower side ~~in the circumferential direction~~ to both of said lateral sides of said light emitting tube.

10. (Currently Amended) The discharge bulb of claim 9, wherein said second light blocking portion ~~is formed in~~ has a ~~predetermined~~ width, in an axial direction of the light emitting tube, ~~from the second position~~ at least corresponding to a width, in the axial direction, of said front sealed end portion of said light emitting tube~~, up to a maximum width substantially at a tip end of corresponding one of said electrodes~~.

11. (Currently Amended) The discharge bulb of claim 8, wherein said first light blocking portion ~~is formed in~~ has a ~~predetermined~~ width, in an axial direction of the light emitting tube, ~~from the first position~~ at least corresponding to a width, in the axial direction, of said rear sealed end portion of said light emitting tube~~, up to a maximum width substantially at a tip end of corresponding one of said electrodes~~.

12. (Currently Amended) The discharge bulb of claim 8, wherein said first light blocking portion ~~on a rear end side of at least one of said arc tube and said glass shroud~~ extends in the circumferential direction on both the lateral sides of said light emitting tube to positions that horizontally coincide in level with ~~an~~ a lowermost position of said rear end sealed portion of said light emitting tube.

13. (Currently Amended) The discharge bulb of claim ~~8~~ 9, wherein said second light blocking portion ~~on a front end side of at least one of said arc tube and said glass shroud~~ extends in the circumferential direction on both the lateral sides of said light emitting tube to positions

that horizontally coincide in level with ~~a~~ an uppermost position of said front end sealed portion of said light emitting tube.

14. (Currently Amended) The discharge bulb of claim 8, wherein said first light blocking portion is disposed in the circumferential direction over a whole circumference of ~~at least one of~~ said ~~are~~ light emitting tube ~~and said glass shroud~~.

15. (Currently Amended) A discharge bulb, comprising:

an arc tube fixedly positioned and forwardly elongating from an insulating base positioned behind said arc tube~~;~~, the arc tube comprising: a ceramic, straight, and cylindrical light emitting tube ~~positioned in said arc tube and~~ having sealed end portions to form an enclosed space therein; and electrodes opposingly disposed in said light emitting tube, ~~where~~ wherein said enclosed space is filled with a light emitting substance and a starting rare gas; and

means for positioning a hot zone of a luminous distribution at a cutoff line of said luminous distribution, and substantially reducing a glare light output.

16. (Currently Amended) The discharge bulb of claim 15, wherein:

said means for positioning and substantially reducing ~~comprising:~~ comprises a strip-shaped first light blocking portion disposed ~~on~~ at a first portion of said ~~are~~ light emitting tube that corresponds to at least a rear one of the sealed end portions of said light emitting tube~~;~~; and

~~wherein~~ said first light blocking portion extends, in a circumferential direction, over at least a ~~predetermined~~ range from an upper side ~~in a circumferential direction~~ to both lateral sides of said light emitting tube.

17. (Currently Amended) The discharge bulb according to claim 16, wherein:

said means for positioning and substantially reducing further ~~comprising:~~ comprises a second light blocking portion ~~positioned~~ disposed on a second portion of said light emitting tube that corresponds ~~corresponding~~ to ~~said~~ a front one of the ~~end~~ sealed ~~portion~~ end portions of said light emitting tube~~,~~; and

~~in at least one of said arc tube and said glass shroud, wherein~~ said second light blocking portion extends, in a circumferential direction, over at least a ~~predetermined~~ range from a lower side ~~in the circumferential direction~~ to both of said lateral sides of said light emitting tube.

18. (Currently Amended) The discharge bulb of claim ~~16~~ 17, wherein:

said second light blocking portion ~~is formed in~~ has a ~~predetermined~~ width, in an axial direction of the light emitting tube, ~~from the second position~~ at least corresponding to a width, in the axial direction, of said front sealed end portion of said light emitting tube~~, up to a maximum width substantially at a tip end of corresponding one of said electrodes,~~; and ~~wherein~~

said first light blocking portion ~~is formed in~~ has a ~~predetermined~~ width, in the axial direction, ~~from the first position~~ at least corresponding to a width, in the axial direction, of said

rear sealed end portion of said light emitting tube~~, up to a maximum width substantially at a tip end of corresponding one of said electrodes~~.

19. (Currently Amended) The discharge bulb of claim 16, wherein:

said first light blocking portion ~~on a rear end side of at least one of said arc tube and said glass shroud~~ extends in the circumferential direction on both the lateral sides of said light emitting tube to positions that horizontally coincide in level with ~~an~~ a lowermost position of said rear end sealed portion of said light emitting tube~~,~~;

said second light blocking portion ~~on a front end side of at least one of said arc tube and said glass shroud~~ extends in the circumferential direction on both the lateral sides of said light emitting tube to positions that horizontally coincide in level with ~~a~~ an uppermost position of said front end sealed portion of said light emitting tube~~,~~; and

said first light blocking portion is disposed in the circumferential direction over a whole circumference of ~~at least one of~~ said ~~are~~ light emitting tube~~ and said glass shroud~~.

20. (Currently Amended) The discharge bulb of claim 16, further comprising~~:~~ an ultraviolet-ray blocking glass shroud surrounding said light emitting tube~~ and positioned around said arc tube, wherein, in at least one of said arc tube and said glass shroud~~.